

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

As everyone will be aware, the Taoiseach's announcement last Friday signalled a continuation of school closures until our next academic year. While this is difficult for all of us, and particularly those pupils preparing for transition from 6th class, we will do our utmost to ensure that the children keep engaging with their curriculum, their peers and teachers as much as we can. We hope to continue with the Class Dojo / Zoom arrangements for the coming eight weeks until the end of term, but to expand within that the range of learning opportunities the children have access to, eg. distributing ukuleles for all pupils from 1st to 6th class and having tutorials to continue their music learning; working with our Creative Schools Co-ordinator to offer broader creative inputs, etc. We will keep you updated on these via email and text.

Many thanks to those who got back to us with feedback on how the remote learning has been working for you. This feedback has been very positive to date, but if there are aspects that others feel could be changed / improved, please do get in touch; we want to make sure we are helping families and not adding to stress at this tough time. The Department announced last week that all primary school Standardised Tests for this year have been cancelled, so our school reports this year will be based on children's average performance in class tasks and termly tests.

Miss Hendy will remain on leave from school now until the beginning of July. As such, we are happy to have Miss Whelan stay in post as Deputy Principal and Junior Room teacher, and Miss Buckley continue on in the role of SEN teacher until year-end. For those parents with children who have identified Additional Support Needs, I have confirmed with the SENO that we will be retaining our full-time SNA allocation next year, so Sara will be back with us in September again, which is great news.

Should you have any queries or questions about any of the above, please don't hesitate to drop me a line. We are so disappointed that we won't get to see the children in real life for some time again now, but hope that the measures will be effective for a safe and happy return to school next term.

Best regards,

Miss O'Shea